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SOURCE

Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.NEW DRUG, EMBIKHIN, TREATS MALIGNANT TUMORS, LEUKEMIAProf. L. Larionov
Leningrad

In regard to new remedies used in the USSR for the treatment of malignant tumors and cancerous conditions, it is of interest to note that a specific sensitivity of malignant tumors to dextrarotatory atebirin has been assumed by Prof V. V. Alpatov on the basis of his experimental results (cf Priroda, Vol XXXIX, No 10, 1950, pp 22-27). While the name Embikhin may suggest a compound which is chemically or pharmacologically similar to atebirin, the new remedy in question on the basis of the description given by Larionov, seems to be a substance of the nitrogen mustard class.

A new remedy, Embikhin, is being used at the Institute of Oncology of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. Embikhin, which is a substance of the chloroethylamine class, has been tested clinically.

The therapeutic application of Embikhin is based on the depressive action exerted by chloroethylamines on the process of blood formation. Use of the new remedy is indicated primarily in hyperplastic and tumorous affections of the blood-forming system, particularly leukemias and lymphogranulomatosis.

For therapeutic purposes, Embikhin is injected intravenously in a physiological solution, most commonly in a quantity amounting to 4-6 milligrams per injection. Ten to twenty injections are made in the course of the treatment. Embikhin is not completely free of undesirable effects; it produces nausea or vomiting in many patients after the injection. This in the majority of cases is not an obstacle to its application, however.

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Determination of the optimal single therapeutic dose for the patient, of the number of injections, and of the intervals between them is of great importance. The method of treatment has been developed by us at the clinical division of the Institute of Oncology under participation of the following scientific collaborators: Ye. M. Kuz'mina, O. N. Nikonova, and Ye. A. Tsel'. Our method is original and is based on prolonged action of the remedy as well as individually adapted prescription.

In the treatment of lymphogranulomatosis with Embikhin, the temperature usually becomes normal after only two injections. The treatment of lymphadenoses in the subleukemic stage with Embikhin gives results which are good and last for a sufficiently long time. In cases of an advanced stage of lymphatic leukemia accompanied by the formation of large knots and anemia, therapy with Embikhin is not indicated. A good effect is achieved in treating chronic myeloid leukemia with Embikhin.

It is very significant that Embikhin has a therapeutic effect not only in affections of the blood-forming system, but also in the treatment of typical malignant tumors.

After preliminary and clinical testing of the method of treating lymphogranulomatosis and leukemia with Embikhin had been carried out in a number of scientific and medical institutions at Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities, the Ministry of Public Health USSR authorized the introduction of the new method into the practice of the public health service.

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